



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Sulphur reports break in sewage line

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Health and Hospitals were notified by the city of Sulphur that a break has occurred in the 24-inch sewer line that runs under Bayou D'Inde.

The break is located underwater where the sewer line crosses Bayou D'Inde. Untreated sewage is flowing directly into the Bayou at a rate of approximately four million gallons per day.

Since the line is one way in and one way out, there is no way to divert the flow. The lift station that the line is connected to provides service to approximately 75 percent of Sulphur, so it cannot be shut down for a long period of time.

DEQ is investigating the cause of the break and has begun a sampling schedule of the impacted area. That area is the length of Bayou D'Inde.

Until the line is repaired, the Department of Health and Hospitals is alerting people not to enter the water or to fish near or downstream from the break. DHH's Molluscan Shellfish Program is also monitoring the situation to determine if the spill might impact oyster harvesting in Calcasieu Lake.

Ingesting water that has been contaminated with raw sewage can result in exposure to parasites, viruses and/or bacteria. Illnesses associated with these germs include stomach cramps and intense vomiting and diarrhea.

The city has a contractor who is working on repairing the break but the Bayou may be impacted for several days.